

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous composition comprising:
 - (a) from 18% to 60% by weight of at least one surfactant;
 - (b) from 0.1% to 10% by weight of at least one copolymer comprising from 2.5% to 30% by weight acrylic acid residues, from 10% to 80% by weight C₂-C₄ alkyl (meth)acrylate residues, and from 2% to 25% by weight lipophilically modified (meth)acrylate residues; and
 - (c) from 0.08% to 0.9% by weight of a clay.
2. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 having from 20% to 45% by weight of said at least one surfactant.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 2 having from 0.3% to 5% of said at least one copolymer and from 0.2% to 0.7% by weight of a the clay.
4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 in which said at least one copolymer has from 5% to 25% by weight acrylic acid residues.
5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 4 in which said at least one copolymer has from 5% to 15% by weight lipophilically modified (meth)acrylate residues.
6. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 5 in which said at least one copolymer further comprises methacrylic acid residues, and the acrylic acid plus the methacrylic acid residues total from 15% to 50% by weight of the copolymer.
7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 in which the clay has a particle size range in a colloidal range from 1 to 1000 nm.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 7 in which the clay is a synthetic hectorite clay material.

9. (Currently Amended) An aqueous composition comprising colloidal inorganic clay and at least 18% by weight surfactant; said composition being stable with regard to phase separation at 40°C for at least three months and exhibiting increased ~~low-shear~~ viscosity relative to a composition without clay; and said composition comprising said at least one lipophilically-modified copolymer containing acrylic acid residues and C₂-C₄ alkyl (meth)acrylate residues.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 9 in which the C₂-C₄ alkyl (meth)acrylate residues are ethyl acrylate residues, and said at least one lipophilically-modified copolymer contains at least 5% by weight acrylic acid.

11. (New) The composition of claim 5 in which said at least one copolymer has from 40% to 75% by weight C₂-C₃ alkyl (meth)acrylate residues.

12. (New) The composition of claim 11 in which said at least one copolymer has from 15% to 25% by weight acrylic acid residues.

13. (New) The composition of claim 11 in which said at least one copolymer further comprises methacrylic acid residues, and the acrylic acid plus the methacrylic acid residues total from 20% to 40% by weight of the copolymer.

14. (New) The composition of claim 11 in which said at least one copolymer has from 40% to 75% by weight ethyl acrylate residues.

15. (New) The composition of claim 14 in which said at least one copolymer has from 15% to 25% by weight acrylic acid residues.

16. (New) The composition of claim 14 in which said at least one copolymer further comprises methacrylic acid residues, and the acrylic acid plus the methacrylic acid residues total from 20% to 40% by weight of the copolymer.

17. (New) An aqueous composition comprising:

- (a) from 20% to 25% by weight of at least one surfactant;
- (b) from 0.5% to 3% by weight of at least one copolymer comprising from 5% to 25% by weight acrylic acid residues, from 40% to 75% by weight ethyl acrylate residues residues, and from 5% to 15% by weight lipophilically modified (meth)acrylate residues; and
- (c) from 0.08% to 0.5% by weight of a clay.

18. (New) The composition of claim 17 in which said at least one copolymer further comprises methacrylic acid residues, and the acrylic acid plus the methacrylic acid residues total from 20% to 40% by weight of the copolymer.